APA Format Amanda Grannas

Concluding Paragraph Connection 1920’s Serial Killers

Sequential Development 19 November 2009

Point of View

Thesis Statement

Behind Closed Doors

“Where do they come from?” (Dolan, 1997) We live in a world full of hate, crime, and violence. Although things may be better or worse, those three things existed as harsh back in the 70’s. Within the decade, there were a number of serial killers that killed for fun, excitement, and personal enjoyment. One unparticular one that stuck out to me was Edmund Emil Kemper 111. He was violent due to his past childhood horrors. He caused extreme scars for ladies ranging from their teens to their late 40’s.

Edmund Emil Kemper 111, known as the “Co-Ed Killer” (Wikipedia: Edmund Kemper, 2009) was born on December 18, 1948 in Santa Cruz, California. His parents divorced when he was 9 years old. Due to family problems, he was forced to live with his mother, Clarnell in Helena, Montana. He hated her. She had strict standards and used brutal punishment when he was bad. He got locked in the basement for punishment. His hate for Clarnell grew much larger and eventually formed fantasies of killing her.

He was afraid of his peers leaving him with no friends and big troubles making them. He liked to be in fake gas chambers with his sisters. He did bizarre sexual rituals with his sisters’ dolls. “He was a pyromaniac and showed signs of necrophilia.” (Kari & Associates, 1994-2006) He fatally stabbed his family cat and buried it up to its neck and kept its head as a trophy. When his mother replaced the cat, Kemper, of course, killed it. She later found pieces of the cat in his bedroom closet. His mother called him a “weirdo.”

In the summer of 1963, he ran away from home in search of his father. But after his father remarried, he wanted nothing to do with his son. Therefore, he moved in with his paternal grandparents on a California ranch at age 13. He did not like it because he disliked his grandmother. While sitting at the kitchen table, finishing her children’s book, Maude Kemper was shot by her grandson. So his grandfather didn’t get mad at him, he then shot him. He said, he “just wanted to see what it felt like to kill Grandma.”

Kemper had a spree of murders between May 1972 and February 1973. He picked up female student hitchhikers and killed them in isolated rural areas. He stabbed, shot, or smothered them and took the bodies back to his apartment. He had sex with them before dissecting them. He killed five college girls and would go “hunting” for victims after arguments with his mother.

On May 7, 1972, he killed two 18-year-old college students. He thumb cuffed both girls and stabbed them fatally after driving for an hour. He took them to his mother’s house and took pictures of them for his pleasure. After tearing the bodies apart, he put them in a duffel bag and left them on a mountain. He used one of the girl’s head for oral sex before he dumped it in a ravine.

On September 14, 1972, Kemper killed a 15-year-old. He strangled her then put her body in the trunk. After going back to his mother’s house, he raped, dissected her body, and conducted experiments on her corpse. Jokingly, he buried her head in his mother’s garden. He threw the rest of the torn apart body parts in a ravine.

On February 5, he killed a 24 and 23-year-old college student. He fatally shot both girls and wrapped them in blankets. He beheaded them at his mother’s house and had sexual activities with their bodies. After tearing the bodies apart, he threw them off a seaside cliff.

On Good Friday of 1973, he beat his sleeping mother to death with a claw hammer. He then beheaded her and used her head for oral sex before making it a dartboard. He cut her vocal cord and put them in the garbage disposal. He said to the police, “that seemed appropriate, as much as she’s bitched and screamed and yelled at me over so many years.” After inviting his mother’s best friend over, he strangled her to death and then left the house.

While driving out of California, Kemper called the police and confessed to killing his mother. He waited inside of his car until he was arrested. At his trial he pleaded insanity. He was found guilty of eight counts of murder. He asked for the death penalty, but received life imprisonment. He is now imprisoned at California State Prison, Solano, in Vacaville, California.

In conclusion, Edmund Kemper the third was a very lost and confused boy. He used killing as his way out of hurt. He was a serial killed of the 1970’s. He was one of many, in fact. Even today, there are plenty of serial killers out there. The sad part is they can be stopped from the beginning. How would his life have turned out if he didn’t hate such a cruel hate for his mother?